

WTOP Radio

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6:45 P. M.

Drew Pearson

Washington, D.C.

FOIAb3b

REMARKS OF JACK ANDERSON

CPYRGHT

JACK ANDERSON (Substituting for Drew Pearson): "New York City--James Donovan, the Brooklyn attorney who arranged for the release of U 2 pilot Francis Gary Powers from a Soviet prison, is now negotiating to free the 1200 Cuban freedom fighters from Fidel Castro's filthy prisons. The dictator is still holding out for \$2,000,000 ransom. These men are living under subhuman conditions in a dank stone 1774 prison in Havana, and in a slimy, sweltering concentration camp on the Isle of Pines. Their cells are infested with rats, cockroaches, and bedbugs. The food is served, appropriately, out of garbage pails. One prisoner, recently ransomed, claimed they would sometimes turn up unidentifiable heads in their food, probably dog or cat heads.

"I have just received a message, smuggled out of the Isle of Pines by a Havana doctor whose identity must be protected. He has appealed to me to present the facts to the United Nations. How he learned about conditions in the concentration camp cannot be told. But his information is as fresh as the prisoners' food is stale. Here is his report in the clinical language of a physician. Quote:

"The prisoners are kept incommunicado. We have not been allowed to visit or see them, send food or medicine, since May 3rd, 1962. They are not allowed to get fresh air or sunshine at all. Food is poor and insufficient. What they get is often raw, and it has made them sick. They are fed usually once a day, but sometimes more often. Their main diet consists of boiled noodles without salt, rice and beans half cooked. No meat or any other source of proteins. Their living quarters are crowded, twice the number of people for the space available. Dysentery and virus infection are rampant, and leave them so weak they can hardly stand up. They have gone hungry many times, yet the sick are forced to take food into their cells so the other prisoners will get into fights over the distribution of food.

"These are men of superior intelligence and of high educational level, but the communists have degraded them to a level where they have to fight for their survival, just like animals. Castro has also told them that they will have to work in prison labor camps in the swamps with water up to their waists. Please get this information out and denounce the inhuman treatment accorded these prisoners. Please lay the facts before the United Nations." Unquote.